

Appl. No.: 10/670,144  
Reply to Office Action of: 11/12/2008

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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Please cancel claim(s) 9 and 10 without prejudice.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously presented) A method for measuring tissue edema, in which method

an electromagnetic probe is placed on the skin during the measurement, and a capacitance of the probe is proportional to a dielectric constant of the skin and subcutaneous fat tissue, which is further proportional to a water content of the skin,

a distance between two electrodes of the probe being large enough in order for the electronic field to penetrate up to the subcutaneous fat tissue, and the said distance is about 2-10 mm,

the edema is scored by measuring the capacitance of the electromagnetic probe at a high frequency, approximately 20-500 MHz.

2. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, in which

the measurement is made manually and takes only a few seconds.

3. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, in which

Appl. No.: 10/670,144  
Reply to Office Action of: 11/12/2008

for the measurement the probe is secured on the skin by an attachment, such as strap-like attachment, for a long time, for instance hours or days, in which case the edema can be monitored continuously.

4. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, in which

a device comprising the electromagnetic probe operates only on a single precisely set frequency.

5. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, in which

the edema of uppermost layers of the skin is measured using a frequency of approximately 20-50 MHz, in which case an electric field is concentrated in the uppermost layers of the skin.

6. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, in which

the edema of deep skin layers and the underlying subcutaneous fat is measured using a frequency of approximately 50-500 MHz, in which case an electric field penetrates deeply into the skin and the underlying subcutaneous fat.

7. (Currently amended) A device for measuring tissue edema, which device includes

an electromagnetic probe in order to be placed on the skin during the measurement, wherein a capacitance of the probe

Appl. No.: 10/670,144  
Reply to Office Action of: 11/12/2008

is proportional to a dielectric constant of the skin and subcutaneous fat tissue, which is further proportional to a water content of the skin,

a high frequency unit for measuring the capacitance of the electromagnetic probe ~~at a high frequency, approximately 20-500 MHz,~~ wherein the high frequency unit is arranged to measure the capacitance of the electromagnetic probe at a first range of approximately 20-50 MHz, wherein the high frequency unit is arranged to measure the capacitance of the electromagnetic probe at a second range of approximately 50-500 MHz, wherein the first range corresponds to a measure of upper layers of the skin, and wherein the second range corresponds to a measure of deep layers of the skin,

a unit for calculating measured values and the tissue edema, and

a distance between two electrodes of the probe being large enough in order for the electronic field to penetrate up to the subcutaneous fat tissue, and the said distance is about 2-10 mm.

8. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 7, in which the device is arranged to measure only on a single precisely set frequency.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously presented) A method for measuring tissue edema comprising:

Appl. No.: 10/670,144

Reply to Office Action of: 11/12/2008

placing an electromagnetic probe on the skin, wherein a distance between two electrodes of the probe is about 2-10 mm;

generating a first signal from an oscillator, wherein a frequency of the first signal is about 20 to about 500 MHz;

transmitting a first portion of the first signal to the probe and through the skin and subcutaneous fat tissue;

receiving a reflected signal from the skin and subcutaneous fat tissue through the probe;

leading the reflected signal to a first input of a phase detector;

transmitting a second portion of the first signal to a second input of the phase detector;

operating the phase detector in a saturated state, wherein signal amplitudes from the reflected signal and the second portion of the first signal form the saturated state;

measuring a phase difference between the reflected signal and the second portion of the signal;

calculating a dielectric constant from the phase difference; and

calculating a water content of the skin based on the dielectric constant.

12. (New) A device according to claim 7, in which the high frequency unit comprises an oscillator, a power splitter, and an attenuator connected between the oscillator and the power

Appl. No.: 10/670,144  
Reply to Office Action of: 11/12/2008

splitter, wherein attenuator is configured to prevent access of a signal reflected from the electromagnetic probe.